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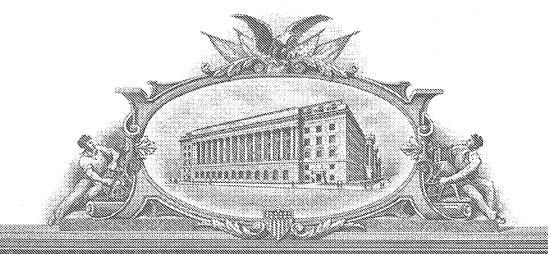
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	TITLE OF THE INVENTION					
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Docket Number 22727 04188 INVENTOR(S)/APPLICANT(S) Residence Family or Surname (City and either State or Foreign Country) Given Name (first and middle [if any]) 1360 Highland St., Apt. A Columbus, Ohio 43201 Lu Qiang

[Page 2 of 2]

2 of 2 Number _

Attorney Docket No.: 22727/04188

UNITED STATES PROVISIONAL PATENT APPLICATION

FOR

Zn²⁺-CHELATING MOTIF-TETHERED SHORT-CHAIN FATTY ACIDS AS A NOVEL CLASS OF HISTONE DEACETYLASE INHIBITORS

BY

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DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[001] This invention was supported by Army Grant DAMD17-02-1-0117 and National Institutes of Health Grant CA94829. The government has certain rights in this invention.

Field of the Invention

[002] The invention relates to histone deacetylase inhibitors, and in particular, those including Zn²⁺-chelating motifs. More particularly, the invention relates to histone deacetylase inhibitors including Zn²⁺-chelating motifs, based on short-chain fatty acids.

Background of the Invention

[003] The acetylation status of core histones plays a pivotal role in regulating gene transcription through the modulation of nucleosomal packaging of DNA (Kouzarides, "Histone acetylases and deacetylases in cell proliferation." Curr Opin Genet Dev 9: 40-48 (1999); Gray and Ekstrom, "The human histone deacetylase family." Exp Cell Res 262: 75-83 (2001); Jenuwein and Allis, "Translating the histone code." Science 293: 1074-1080 (2001)). In a hypoacetylated state, nucleosomes are tightly compacted, resulting in transcriptional repression due to restricted access of transcriptional factors to their targeted DNA. Conversely, histone acetylation leads to relaxed nucleosomal structures, giving rise to a transcriptionally permissive chromatin state. A dynamic balance between the activities of histone acetyltransferases (HATs) and histone deacetylases (HDACs), both of which are recruited to target genes in complexes with sequence-specific transcription activators, maintains this level of this posttranslational modification. Aberrant

regulation of this epigenetic marking system has been shown to cause inappropriate gene expression, a key event in the pathogenesis of many forms of cancer (Wade, "Transcriptional control at regulatory checkpoints by histone deacetylases: molecular connections between cancer and chromatin." Hum Mol Genet 10: 693-698 (2001); Cress and Seto, "Histone deacetylases, transcriptional control, and cancer." J Cell Physiol 184: 1-16 (2000); Marks et al., "Histone deacetylases and cancer: causes and therapies." Nat Rev Cancer 1: 194-202 (2001)). Moreover, evidence demonstrates that inhibition of HDAC triggers growth arrest, differentiation and/or apoptosis in many types of tumor cells by reactivating the transcription of a small number of genes (Jung, "Inhibitors of histone deacetylase as new anticancer agents." Curr Med Chem 8: 1505-1511 (2001); Grozinger and Schreiber, "Deacetylase enzymes: biological functions and the use of small-molecule inhibitors." Chem Biol 9: 3-16 (2002); Johnstone, "Histone-deacetylase inhibitors: novel drugs for the treatment of cancer." Nat Rev Drug Discov 1: 287-299 (2002); Kramer et al., "Histone deacetylase as a therapeutic target." Trends Endocrinol Metab 12: 294-300 (2001); Marks et al., "Histone deacetylase inhibitors: inducers of differentiation or apoptosis of transformed cells." J Natl Cancer Inst 92: 1210-1216 (2000)). Xenograft models also confirm these in vitro findings, suggesting that modulation of HDAC's function is a target for the prevention and/or therapeutic intervention of cancer.

[004] To date, several structurally distinct classes of HDAC inhibitors have been reported (Jung, <u>Curr Med Chem</u> 8: 1505-1511 (2001); Grozinger and Schreiber, <u>Chem Biol</u> 9: 3-16 (2002); Johnstone, <u>Nat Rev Drug Discov</u> 1: 287-299

(2002); Kramer et al., Trends Endocrinol Metab 12: 294-300 (2001); Marks et al., J Natl Cancer Inst 92: 1210-1216 (2000)), including short-chain fatty acids (e.g., butyrate, valproate, phenylacetate, and phenylbutyrate) (Lea and Tulsyan, "Discordant effects of butyrate analogues on erythroleukemia cell proliferation, differentiation and histone deacetylase." Anticancer Res 15: 879-883 (1995); Kruh, "Effects of sodium butyrate, a new pharmacological agent, on cells in culture." Mol Cell Biochem 42: 65-82 (1982); Newmark and Young, "Butyrate and phenylacetate as differentiating agents: practical problems and opportunities." J Cell Biochem Suppl 22: 247-253 (1995); Phiel et al., "Histone deacetylase is a direct target of valproic acid, a potent anticonvulsant, mood stabilizer, and teratogen." J Biol Chem 276: 36734-36741 (2001)), benzamide derivatives (e.g., MS-27-275) (Suzuki et al., "Synthesis and histone deacetylase inhibitory activity of new benzamide derivatives." J Med Chem 42: 3001-3003 (1999); Saito et al., "A synthetic inhibitor of histone deacetylase, MS-27-275, with marked in vivo antitumor activity against human tumors. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A 96: 4592-4597 (1999)), trichostatin A (TSA) and analogues (Tsuji et al., "A new antifungal antibiotic, trichostatin." J Antibiot (Tokyo) 29: 1-6 (1976); Jung et al. "Amide analogues of trichostatin A as inhibitors of histone deacetylase and inducers of terminal cell differentiation." J Med Chem 42: 4669-4679 (1999); Furumai et al. "Potent histone deacetylase inhibitors built from trichostatin A and cyclic tetrapeptide antibiotics including trapoxin." Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A 98: 87-92 (2001)), hybrid polar compounds (e.g., suberoylanilide hydroxamic acid (SAHA)) (Richon et al., "A class of hybrid polar inducers of transformed cell differentiation inhibits histone deacetylases." Proc Natl Acad Sci U

S A 95: 3003-3007 (1998); Remiszewski et al., "Inhibitors of human histone deacetylase: synthesis and enzyme and cellular activity of straight chain hydroxamates." J Med Chem 45: 753-757 (2002)), cyclic tetrapeptides (e.g., apicidin) (Kijima et al., "Trapoxin, an antitumor cyclic tetrapeptide, is an irreversible inhibitor of mammalian histone deacetylase." J Biol Chem 268: 22429-22435 (1993); Shute et al., "Analogues of the cytostatic and antimitogenic agents chlamydocin and HC-toxin: synthesis and biological activity of chloromethyl ketone and diazomethyl ketone functionalized cyclic tetrapeptides." J Med Chem 30: 71-78 (1987); Han et al., "Apicidin, a histone deacetylase inhibitor, inhibits proliferation of tumor cells via induction of p21WAF1/Cip1 and gelsolin." Cancer Res 60: 6068-6074 (2000); Nakajima et al., "FR901228, a potent antitumor antibiotic, is a novel histone deacetylase inhibitor." Exp Cell Res 241: 126-133 (1998)), and the depsipeptide FR901228 (Nakajima et al., Exp Cell Res 241: 126-133 (1998)). Among these agents, short-chain fatty acids are the least potent inhibitors with IC50 in the mM range, as compared to that of μM or even nM for other types of HDAC inhibitors. Although the use of short-chain fatty acids in cancer treatment has been reported, their therapeutic efficacy has been limited by the low anti-proliferative activity, rapid metabolism, and non-specific mode of action.

[005] Recently, X-ray crystallographic analysis of HDLP (histone deacetylase-like protein), a bacterial HDAC homologue, has suggested a distinctive mode of protein-ligand interactions whereby TSA and SAHA mediate enzyme inhibition (Finnin *et al.*, "Structures of a histone deacetylase homologue bound to the TSA and SAHA inhibitors." Nature 401: 188-193 (1999)). The HDAC catalytic

domain apparently consists of a narrow, tube-like pocket spanning the length equivalent to four to six-carbon straight chains. A Zn²⁺ cation is positioned near the bottom of this enzyme pocket, which, in cooperation with two His-Asp charge-relay systems, is believed to facilitate the deacetylation catalysis.

[006] Upon careful consideration of other work in the field, we realized that the weak potency of short-chain fatty acids in HDAC inhibition was, in part, attributable to their inability to access the Zn²⁺ cation in the active-site pocket, which we believe plays a pivotal role in the deacetylation catalysis. Based on this realization and further study, we structurally modified short-chain fatty acids by tethering them with a Zn²⁺-chelating motif via an aromatic linker. Our discoveries and study have led us to the invention of a new class of Zn²⁺-chelating motif-tethered short-chain fatty acids, some of which show inhibition of HDAC activity and cancer cell proliferation in nM range, a three-orders-of-magnitude improvement over their parent compounds.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[007] We realized that the weak potency of short-chain fatty acids as histone deacetylase (HDAC) inhibitors was, in part, attributable to their inability to access the zinc cation in the HDAC active-site pocket, which is believed to be important in deacetylation catalysis. The present invention is based on structural modification of fatty acids, including the short-chain fatty acids, *e.g.*, valproate, butyrate, phenylacetate, and phenylbutyrate. The present invention generally includes coupling fatty acids with Zn²⁺-chelating motifs (including, but not limited to, hydroxamic acid and *o*-phenylene diamine) through aromatic ω-amino acid linkers.

This strategy has led to the present invention, which includes a novel class of Zn²⁺-chelating motif-tethered short-chain fatty acids.

[008] The efficacy of the inventive compounds in HDAC inhibition demonstrates that potent HDAC inhibitors can be designed based on the framework provided by the crystal structures of HDLP-ligand complexes. The present invention is based on a tethering strategy that allows the generation of a large library of compounds via the divergent combination of short-chain fatty acids, ω -amino acids, and a zinc-chelator, such as hydroxamate.

[009] The present invention includes histone deacetylase inhibitors having the formula:

wherein:

X is chosen from H and CH₃;

Y is $(CH_2)_n$ wherein n is 0-2;

Z is chosen from $(CH_2)_m$ wherein m is 0-3 and $(CH)_2$;

A is a hydrocarbyl group;

B is o-aminophenyl or hydroxyl group; and

Q is a halogen, hydrogen, or methyl.

[010] In the formula, A can comprise an aliphatic group, and the aliphatic group can be branched. A can also comprise an aromatic group, which may be

substituted or unsubstituted. In the formula, B can be o-aminophenyl or hydroxyl. In some embodiments Y can be $(CH_2)_n$ wherein n is 0, A comprises an aromatic group, B is hydroxy, and Q is hydrogen.

[011] Specific inhibitors of the formula include N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-[(2propyl-pentanoylamino)-methy1]-benzamide; N-Hydroxy-4-[(2-propylpentanoylamino)-methy1]-benzamide; N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(2-propylpentanoylamino)-benzamide; N-Hydroxy-4-(2-propyl-pentanoylamino)-benzamide; 2-Propyl-pentanoic acid {4-[2-amino-phenylcarbamoyl)-methyl]-phenyl}-amide; 2-Propyl-pentanoic acid (4-hydroxycarbamoyl-methyl-phenyl)-amide; 2-Propylpentanoic acid {4-[2-amino-phenylcarbamoyl)-ethyl]-phenyl}-amide; 2-Propylpentanoic acid [4-(2-hydroxycarbamoyl-ethyl)-phenyl]-amide; 2-Propyl-pentanoic acid {4-2-(2-amino-phenylcarbamoyl)-vinyl]-phenyl}-amide; 2-Propyl-pentanoic acid [4-(2-hydroxycarbamoyl-vinyl)-phenyl]-amide; N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(butyrylaminomethyl)-benzamide; N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(phenylacetylamino-methyl)-benzamide; N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-[(4-phenyl-butyrylamino-methyl]-benzamide; 4-(Butyrylaminomethyl)-N-hydroxy-benzamide; N-hydroxy-4-(phenylacetylamino-methyl)-benzamide; N-hydroxy-4-[(4-phenyl-butyrylamino)-methyl]-benzamide; 4-Butyrylamino-Nhydroxy-benzamide; N-hydroxy-4-phenylacetylamino-benzamide; N-hydroxy-4-(4phenylbutyrylamino)-benzamide; N-[4-(2-Hydroxycarbamoyl-ethyl)-phenyl]butyramide: N-hydroxy-3-(4-phenylacetylamino-phenyl)-propionamide; N-[4-(2-Hydroxycarbamoyl-ethyl)-phenyl]-4-phenyl-butyramide; N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-[(2phenyl-butyrylamino-methyl]-benzamide; N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-[(3-phenylbutyrylamino-methyl]-benzamide; N-hydroxy-4-(2-phenylbutyrylamino)-benzamide;

N-hydroxy-4-(3-phenylbutyrylamino)-benzamide; N-[4-(2-Hydroxycarbamoyl-ethyl)phenyll-2-phenyl-butyramide; N-[4-(2-Hydroxycarbamoyl-ethyl)-phenyl]-3-phenylbutyramide; N-hydroxy-4-[(2-phenyl-butyrylamino)-methyl]-benzamide; N-hydroxy-4-[(3-phenyl-butyrylamino)-methyl]-benzamide; 4-Benzoylamino-N-hydroxybenzamide; 4-(4-methyl)-Benzoylamino-N-hydroxy-benzamide; 4-(4-chloro)-Benzoylamino-N-hydroxy-benzamide; 4-(4-bromo)-Benzoylamino-N-hydroxybenzamide; 4-(4-tert-butyl)-Benzoylamino-N-hydroxy-benzamide; 4-(4-phenyl)-Benzoylamino-N-hydroxy-benzamide; 4-(4-methoxyl)-Benzoylamino-N-hydroxybenzamide; 4-(4-trifluoromethyl)-Benzoylamino-N-hydroxy-benzamide; 4-(4-nitro)-Benzoylamino-N-hydroxy-benzamide; Pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (4hydroxycarbamoyl-phenyl)-amide; N-hydroxy-4-(2-methyl-2-phenyl-propionylamino)benzamide; N-hydroxy-4-(3-methyl-2-phenyl-butyrylamino)-benzamide; N-hydroxy-4-(3-phenyl-propionylamino)-benzamide; 4-(2,2-Dimethyl-4-phenyl-butyrylamino)-Nhydroxy-benzamide: N-hydroxy-4-[methyl-(4-phenyl-butyryl)-amino]-benzamide; Nhydroxy-4-(2-phenyl-propionylamino)-benzamide; N-hydroxy-4-(2-methoxy-2-phenylacetylamino)-benzamide; 4-Diphenylacetylamino-N-hydroxy-benzamide; N-hydroxy-4-[2-(4-isobutyl-phenyl)-propionylamino]-benzamide; N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4phenylacetylamino-benzamide: N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(5-phenyl-pentanoylamino)benzamide: N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(2-phenyl-butyrylamino)-benzamide; N-(2-Aminophenyl)-4-(2.2-dimethyl-4-phenyl-butyrylamino)-benzamide; N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(3-phenyl-propionylamino)-benzamide; N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(4-phenylbutyrylamino)-benzamide; N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(3-phenyl-butyrylamino)benzamide; N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(3-methyl-2-phenyl-butyrylamino)-benzamide; N-

(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(2-methyl-2-phenyl-propionylamino)-benzamide; N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-[2-(4-isobutyl-phenyl)-propionylamino]-benzamide; and N-hydroxy-4-[2-(S)-phenylbutyrylamino]-benzamide; N-hydroxy-4-[2-(R)-phenylbutyrylamino]-benzamide; N-[4-(2-Hydroxycarbamoyl-ethyl)-phenyl]-2-(S)-phenyl-butyramide; N-[4-(2-Hydroxycarbamoyl-ethyl)-phenyl-butyramide; N-hydroxy-4-(3-(S)-phenylbutyrylamino)-benzamide; N-hydroxy-4-(3-(R)-phenylbutyrylamino)-benzamide; N-hydroxy-4-[3-(S)-phenylbutyrylamino]-benzamide; and N-hydroxy-4-[3-(R)-phenylbutyrylamino]-benzamide.

[012] The present invention also includes pharmaceutical compositions comprising these inhibitors, and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient. Still further, the invention includes methods of inhibiting neoplastic cell proliferation in an animal, such as a human, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of at least one inhibitor of the invention.

[013] Additional features and advantages of the invention will be set forth in part in the description which follows, and in part will be obvious from the description, or may be learned by practice of the invention. The features and advantages of the invention will be realized and attained by means of the elements and combinations particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

[014] It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are exemplary and explanatory only and are not restrictive of the invention, as claimed. The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification, illustrate embodiments of

the invention and together with the description, serve to explain the principles of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- [015] **Figure 1** shows divergent conjugations of valproic acid with five aromatic ω-amino acids and two Zn²⁺-chelating moieties to generate compounds 1 **10**.
- [016] **Figure 2** shows HDAC inhibitory potency of compounds 1 10. In vitro HDAC assay was carried out by using a commercial enzyme assay kit as described herein. Data are the means \pm S.D. (n = 3).
- [017] **Figure 3** shows structures and HDAC inhibitory potency of compounds **11 22**. Values are the means <u>+</u> S.D. (n = 3).
- [018] **Figure 4** shows the effect of HTPB, TSA, and phenylbutyrate on histone acetylation and p21^{WAF/CIP1} expression in DU-145 cells. DU-145 cells were exposed to HTPB, TSA, and phenylbutyrate at the indicated concentrations in 10% FBS-supplemented RPMI 1640 medium for 24 h. An equivalent amount of protein from individual lysates was electrophoresed and probed by Western blot with respective antibodies. Actin was used as an internal reference protein.
- [019] **Figure 5** shows the growth inhibitory effect of HTPB on DU-145 cells. (A) Time course of the dose-dependent effect of HTPB on cell viability. DU-145 cells were treated with $0-2.5~\mu M$ HTPB in 10% FBS-containing RPMI 1640 medium for the indicated times. Viable cells were examined by the MTT assay. Data are means \pm S.D. (n = 6). (B) Dose-dependent effect of HTPB on the formation of nucleosomal DNA after 24-hr exposure. The formation of nucleosomes was quantitatively

measured by Cell Death Detection ELISA with lysates equivalent to 2×10^3 cells for each assay. Data are the average of two independent determinations.

- [020] **Figure 6** illustrates examples of schemes for synthesizing compounds according to the invention.
- [021] **Figure 7** (Frames 1-11) displays examples of different compounds according to the invention.
- [022] **Figure 8** (Frames 1 and 2) displays examples of zinc-chelating motifs that can be used in accordance with the invention.

DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

- [023] In general, short-chain fatty acids exhibit HDAC inhibitory and antiproliferative activities in the mM range irrespective of the structure of acyl chains (Grozinger and Schreiber, Chem Biol 9: 3-16 (2002); Johnstone, Nat Rev Drug Discov 1: 287-299 (2002); Kramer et al., Trends Endocrinol Metab 12: 294-300 (2001)). The present invention is based on, among other things, the discovery that these fatty acids exert HDAC inhibition through non-specific hydrophobic interactions with surface residues located at the enzyme pocket entrance and/or the hydrophobic region inside the tube-like pocket. We enhanced the HDAC inhibitory potency of these short-chain fatty acids by tethering to a Zn²⁺-chelating moiety through a hydrophobic spacer.
- [024] Measurement of the enzymatic activity of a histone deacetylase can be achieved using known methodologies. For example, Yoshida *et al.* (J. Biol. Chem. 265: 17174-17179 (1990)) describe the assessment of histone deacetylase enzymatic activity by the detection of acetylated histones in trichostatin A treated

cells. Taunton *et al.* (Science 272: 408-411 (1996)) similarly describes methods to measure histone deacetylase enzymatic activity using endogenous and recombinant HDAC-1. Both Yoshida *et al.* (J. Biol. Chem. 265:17174-17179, 1990) and Taunton *et al.* (Science 272: 408-411, 1996) are incorporated herein by reference.

[025] Throughout this disclosure, reference will be made to compounds according to the invention. Reference to such compounds, in the specification and claims, includes esters and salts of such compounds. Thus, even if not explicitly recited, such esters and salts are contemplated, and encompassed, by reference to the compounds themselves.

[026] The fatty acids that can be used in accordance with the present invention comprise a hydrocarbyl portion and a carboxylic acid portion. As used herein, the term "hydrocarbyl" is understood to include "aliphatic," "cycloaliphatic," and "aromatic." The hydrocarbyl groups are understood to include alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, and alkaryl groups. Further, "hydrocarbyl" is understood to include both non-substituted hydrocarbyl groups, and substituted hydrocarbyl groups, with the latter referring to the hydrocarbon portion bearing additional substituents, besides carbon and hydrogen. Additionally, while "carboxylic acid" is used to refer to the compounds, salts of such acids, *i.e.*, carboxylates, are also expressly contemplated. Moreover, carboxylic acids and carboxylates may be used interchangably herein.

[027] In particular, fatty acids include, but are not limited to, those having chain lengths comparable to an unbranched fatty acid of from about 3 carbons to about 14 carbons in length. Thus, the chains can be, for example, from about 3, 4,

5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, or 13 carbons in length. The chains can be up to, for example, about 14, 13, 12, 11, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, or 4 carbons in length. The fatty acids can be straight or branched and can include single, double, and/or triple bonds. Nonlimiting examples of fatty acids include valproate, butyrate, phenylacetate, and phenylbutyrate.

[028] Zinc²⁺-chelating motifs contemplated in accordance with the present invention include, but are not limited to, hydroxamic acids and o-phenylene diamines. Other examples include trifluoromethyl ketone, α -keto amide, α -keto thiazole, 2-keto 1-methyl-1H-imidazole, α -keto 1H-tetrazole, α -keto 1H-imidazole, 5-keto 1-methyl-1H-imidazole, α -keto oxazole, α -keto 4,5-dihydro-oxazole, α -keto benzooxazole, α -keto oxazolo[4,5-b]pyridine, and α -keto pyridine. Structures of these motifs are shown in Figure 8.

[029] The spacer can be any hydrocarbyl spacer, but preferably comprises an aromatic component. Aromatic linkers are believed to possess the following advantages: 1) they enhance the structural rigidity of the conjugate, and 2) they increase van der Waals contacts with the tube-like hydrophobic region of the pocket to improve binding affinity. Examples of linkers include, but are not limited to, aromatic ω-amino acids.

[030] The linkers can exhibit lengths equivalent to that of four to eight-carbon straight chains, *e.g.*, equivalent to 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8-carbon straight chains. Thus, the lengths can be equivalent to 4-7 or 4-6-carbon straight chains. The length may be based on the depth of the hydrophobic region of the binding pocket. Examples of linkers of the invention include, but are not limited to, 4-(aminomethyl)benzoic acid,

4-aminobenzoic acid, (4-aminophenyl)acetic acid, 3-(4-aminophenyl)propionic acid, and 3-(4-aminophenyl)-acrylic acid. Among them, 4-(aminomethyl)benzoic acid has been used as the linker for MS-27-275 (Saito *et al.*, <u>Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A</u> 96: 4592-4597 (1999)).

- [031] The following compounds are specifically contemplated:
- [032] N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-[(2-propyl-pentanoylamino)-methy1]-benzamide;
- [033] N-Hydroxy-4-[(2-propyl-pentanoylamino)-methy1]-benzamide;
- [034] N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(2-propyl-pentanoylamino)-benzamide;
- [035] N-Hydroxy-4-(2-propyl-pentanoylamino)-benzamide;
- [036] 2-Propyl-pentanoic acid {4-[2-amino-phenylcarbamoyl)-methyl]-phenyl}-amide;
 - [037] 2-Propyl-pentanoic acid (4-hydroxycarbamoyl-methyl-phenyl)-amide;
- [038] 2-Propyl-pentanoic acid {4-[2-amino-phenylcarbamoyl)-ethyl]-phenyl}-amide;
 - [039] 2-Propyl-pentanoic acid [4-(2-hydroxycarbamoyl-ethyl)-phenyl]-amide;
- [040] 2-Propyl-pentanoic acid {4-2-(2-amino-phenylcarbamoyl)-vinyl]-phenyl}-amide;
 - [041] 2-Propyl-pentanoic acid [4-(2-hydroxycarbamoyl-vinyl)-phenyl]-amide;
 - [042] N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(butyrylamino-methyl)-benzamide;
 - [043] N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(phenylacetylamino-methyl)-benzamide;
 - [044] N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-[(4-phenyl-butyrylamino-methyl]-benzamide;
 - [045] 4-(Butyrylamino-methyl)-N-hydroxy-benzamide;
 - [046] N-hydroxy-4-(phenylacetylamino-methyl)-benzamide;

- [047] N-hydroxy-4-[(4-phenyl-butyrylamino)-methyl]-benzamide;
- [048] 4-Butyrylamino-N-hydroxy-benzamide;
- [049] N-hydroxy-4-phenylacetylamino-benzamide;
- [050] N-hydroxy-4-(4-phenylbutyrylamino)-benzamide;
- [051] N-[4-(2-Hydroxycarbamoyl-ethyl)-phenyl]-butyramide;
- [052] N-hydroxy-3-(4-phenylacetylamino-phenyl)-propionamide;
- [053] N-[4-(2-Hydroxycarbamoyl-ethyl)-phenyl]-4-phenyl-butyramide;
- [054] N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-[(2-phenyl-butyrylamino-methyl]-benzamide;
- [055] N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-[(3-phenyl-butyrylamino-methyl]-benzamide;
- [056] N-hydroxy-4-(2-phenylbutyrylamino)-benzamide;
- [057] N-hydroxy-4-(3-phenylbutyrylamino)-benzamide;
- [058] N-[4-(2-Hydroxycarbamoyl-ethyl)-phenyl]-2-phenyl-butyramide;
- [059] N-[4-(2-Hydroxycarbamoyl-ethyl)-phenyl]-3-phenyl-butyramide;
- [060] N-hydroxy-4-[(2-phenyl-butyrylamino)-methyl]-benzamide;
- [061] N-hydroxy-4-[(3-phenyl-butyrylamino)-methyl]-benzamide;
- [062] 4-Benzoylamino-N-hydroxy-benzamide;
- [063] 4-(4-methyl)-Benzoylamino-N-hydroxy-benzamide;
- [064] 4-(4-chloro)-Benzoylamino-N-hydroxy-benzamide;
- [065] 4-(4-bromo)-Benzoylamino-N-hydroxy-benzamide;
- [066] 4-(4-tert-butyl)-Benzoylamino-N-hydroxy-benzamide;
- [067] 4-(4-phenyl)-Benzoylamino-N-hydroxy-benzamide;
- [068] 4-(4-methoxyl)-Benzoylamino-N-hydroxy-benzamide;
- [069] 4-(4-trifluoromethyl)-Benzoylamino-N-hydroxy-benzamide;

- [070] 4-(4-nitro)-Benzoylamino-N-hydroxy-benzamide;
- [071] Pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (4-hydroxycarbamoyl-phenyl)-amide;
- [072] N-hydroxy-4-(2-methyl-2-phenyl-propionylamino)-benzamide;
- [073] N-hydroxy-4-(3-methyl-2-phenyl-butyrylamino)-benzamide;
- [074] N-hydroxy-4-(3-phenyl-propionylamino)-benzamide;
- [075] 4-(2,2-Dimethyl-4-phenyl-butyrylamino)-N-hydroxy-benzamide;
- [076] N-hydroxy-4-[methyl-(4-phenyl-butyryl)-amino]-benzamide;
- [077] N-hydroxy-4-(2-phenyl-propionylamino)-benzamide;
- [078] N-hydroxy-4-(2-methoxy-2-phenyl-acetylamino)-benzamide;
- [079] 4-Diphenylacetylamino-N-hydroxy-benzamide;
- [080] N-hydroxy-4-[2-(4-isobutyl-phenyl)-propionylamino]-benzamide;
- [081] N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-phenylacetylamino-benzamide;
- [082] N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(5-phenyl-pentanoylamino)-benzamide;
- [083] N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(2-phenyl-butyrylamino)-benzamide;
- [084] N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(2,2-dimethyl-4-phenyl-butyrylamino)-

benzamide;

- [085] N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(3-phenyl-propionylamino)-benzamide;
- [086] N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(4-phenyl-butyrylamino)-benzamide;
- [087] N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(3-phenyl-butyrylamino)-benzamide;
- [088] N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(3-methyl-2-phenyl-butyrylamino)-benzamide;
- [089] N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(2-methyl-2-phenyl-propionylamino)-benzamide;
- [090] N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-[2-(4-isobutyl-phenyl)-propionylamino]-

benzamide;

- [091] N-hydroxy-4-[2-(S)-phenylbutyrylamino]-benzamide;
- [092] N-hydroxy-4-[2-(R)-phenylbutyrylamino]-benzamide;
- [093] N-[4-(2-Hydroxycarbamoyl-ethyl)-phenyl]-2-(S)-phenyl-butyramide;
- [094] N-[4-(2-Hydroxycarbamoyl-ethyl)-phenyl]-2-(R)-phenyl-butyramide;
- [095] N-hydroxy-4-(3-(S)-phenylbutyrylamino)-benzamide;
- [096] N-hydroxy-4-(3-(R)-phenylbutyrylamino)-benzamide;
- [097] N-hydroxy-4-[3-(S)-phenylbutyrylamino]-benzamide; and
- [098] N-hydroxy-4-[3-(R)-phenylbutyrylamino]-benzamide.
- [099] Any of the inventive compounds, employed in the methods of the invention, can be administered orally, parenterally (IV, IM, depot-IM, SQ, and depot-SQ), sublingually, intranasally (inhalation), intrathecally, topically, or rectally. Dosage forms known to those of skill in the art are suitable for delivery of the inventive compounds employed in the methods of the invention.

[0100] Compositions are provided that contain therapeutically effective amounts of the inventive compounds employed in the methods of the invention. The compounds can be formulated into suitable pharmaceutical preparations such as tablets, capsules, or elixirs for oral administration or in sterile solutions or suspensions for parenteral administration. The compounds described herein can be formulated into pharmaceutical compositions using techniques and procedures well known in the art.

[0101] About 0.1 to 1000 mg of an inventive compound or mixture of inventive compounds employed in the methods of the invention, or a physiologically acceptable salt or ester is compounded with a physiologically acceptable vehicle,

carrier, excipient, binder, preservative, stabilizer, flavor, etc., in a unit dosage form as called for by accepted pharmaceutical practice. The amount of active substance in those compositions or preparations is such that a suitable dosage in the range indicated is obtained. The compositions can be formulated in a unit dosage form, each dosage containing from about 1 to about 500 mg, or about 10 to about 100 mg of the active ingredient. The term "unit dosage from" refers to physically discrete units suitable as unitary dosages for human subjects and other mammals, each unit containing a predetermined quantity of active material calculated to produce the desired therapeutic effect, in association with a suitable pharmaceutical excipient.

[0102] To prepare compositions, one or more inventive compounds employed in the methods of the invention are mixed with a suitable pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. Upon mixing or addition of the compound(s), the resulting mixture may be a solution, suspension, emulsion, or the like. Liposomal suspensions may also be used as pharmaceutically acceptable carriers. These may be prepared according to methods known to those skilled in the art. The form of the resulting mixture depends upon a number of factors, including the intended mode of administration and the solubility of the compound in the selected carrier or vehicle. The effective concentration is sufficient for lessening or ameliorating at least one symptom of the disease, disorder, or condition treated and may be empirically determined.

[0103] Pharmaceutical carriers or vehicles suitable for administration of the compounds provided herein include any such carriers suitable for the particular mode of administration. In addition, the active materials can also be mixed with

other active materials that do not impair the desired action, or with materials that supplement the desired action, or have another action. The compounds may be formulated as the sole pharmaceutically active ingredient in the composition or may be combined with other active ingredients.

[0104] Where the compounds exhibit insufficient solubility, methods for solubilizing may be used. Such methods are known and include, but are not limited to, using co-solvents such as dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO), using surfactants such as TWEEN, and dissolution in aqueous sodium bicarbonate. Derivatives of the compounds, such as salts or prodrugs, may also be used in formulating effective pharmaceutical compositions.

[0105] The concentration of the compound is effective for delivery of an amount upon administration that lessens or ameliorates at least one symptom of the disorder for which the compound is administered. Typically, the compositions are formulated for single dosage administration.

[0106] The inventive compounds employed in the methods of the invention may be prepared with carriers that protect them against rapid elimination from the body, such as time-release formulations or coatings. Such carriers include controlled release formulations, such as, but not limited to, microencapsulated delivery systems. The active compound can be included in the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier in an amount sufficient to exert a therapeutically useful effect in the absence of undesirable side effects on the patient treated. The therapeutically effective concentration may be determined empirically by testing the compounds in known in vitro and *in vivo* model systems for the treated disorder.

[0107] The compounds and compositions of the invention can be enclosed in multiple or single dose containers. The enclosed compounds and compositions can be provided in kits, for example, including component parts that can be assembled for use. For example, an inventive compound in lyophilized form and a suitable diluent may be provided as separated components for combination prior to use. A kit may include an inventive compound and a second therapeutic agent for coadministration. The inventive compound and second therapeutic agent may be provided as separate component parts. A kit may include a plurality of containers, each container holding one or more unit dose of the inventive compound employed in the method of the invention. The containers can be adapted for the desired mode of administration, including, but not limited to tablets, gel capsules, sustained-release capsules, and the like for oral administration; depot products, pre-filled syringes, ampoules, vials, and the like for parenteral administration; and patches, medipads, creams, and the like for topical administration.

[0108] The concentration of active inventive compound in the drug composition will depend on absorption, inactivation, and excretion rates of the active compound, the dosage schedule, and amount administered as well as other factors known to those of skill in the art.

[0109] The active ingredient may be administered at once, or may be divided into a number of smaller doses to be administered at intervals of time. It is understood that the precise dosage and duration of treatment is a function of the disease being treated and may be determined empirically using known testing protocols or by extrapolation from *in vivo* or in vitro test data. It is to be noted that

concentrations and dosage values may also vary with the severity of the condition to be alleviated. It is to be further understood that for any particular subject, specific dosage regimens should be adjusted over time according to the individual need and the professional judgment of the person administering or supervising the administration of the compositions, and that the concentration ranges set forth herein are exemplary only and are not intended to limit the scope or practice of the claimed compositions.

[0110] If oral administration is desired, the compound can be provided in a composition that protects it from the acidic environment of the stomach. For example, the composition can be formulated in an enteric coating that maintains its integrity in the stomach and releases the active compound in the intestine. The composition may also be formulated in combination with an antacid or other such ingredient.

[0111] Oral compositions will generally include an inert diluent or an edible carrier and may be compressed into tablets or enclosed in gelatin capsules. For the purpose of oral therapeutic administration, the active compound or compounds can be incorporated with excipients and used in the form of tablets, capsules, or troches. Pharmaceutically compatible binding agents and adjuvant materials can be included as part of the composition.

[0112] The tablets, pills, capsules, troches, and the like can contain any of the following ingredients or compounds of a similar nature: a binder such as, but not limited to, gum tragacanth, acacia, corn starch, or gelatin; an excipient such as microcrystalline cellulose, starch, or lactose; a disintegrating agent such as, but not

limited to, alginic acid and corn starch; a lubricant such as, but not limited to, magnesium stearate; a glidant, such as, but not limited to, colloidal silicon dioxide; a sweetening agent such as sucrose or saccharin; and a flavoring agent such as peppermint, methyl salicylate, or fruit flavoring.

[0113] When the dosage unit form is a capsule, it can contain, in addition to material of the above type, a liquid carrier such as a fatty oil. In addition, dosage unit forms can contain various other materials, which modify the physical form of the dosage unit, for example, coatings of sugar and other enteric agents. The compounds can also be administered as a component of an elixir, suspension, syrup, wafer, chewing gum or the like. A syrup may contain, in addition to the active compounds, sucrose as a sweetening agent and certain preservatives, dyes and colorings, and flavors.

[0114] The active materials can also be mixed with other active materials that do not impair the desired action, or with materials that supplement the desired action. The inventive compounds can be used, for example, in combination with an antitumor agent, a hormone, a steroid, or a retinoid. The antitumor agent may be one of numerous chemotherapy agents such as an alkylating agent, an antimetabolite, a hormonal agent, an antibiotic, colchicine, a vinca alkaloid, L-asparaginase, procarbazine, hydroxyurea, mitotane, nitrosoureas or an imidazole carboxamide. Suitable agents include those agents which promote depolarization of tubulin. Examples include colchicine and vinca alkaloids, including vinblastine and vincristine.

[0115] Solutions or suspensions used for parenteral, intradermal, subcutaneous, or topical application can include any of the following components: a sterile diluent such as water for injection, saline solution, fixed oil, a naturally occurring vegetable oil such as sesame oil, coconut oil, peanut oil, cottonseed oil, and the like, or a synthetic fatty vehicle such as ethyl oleate, and the like, polyethylene glycol, glycerin, propylene glycol, or other synthetic solvent; antimicrobial agents such as benzyl alcohol and methyl parabens; antioxidants such as ascorbic acid and sodium bisulfite; chelating agents such as ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA); buffers such as acetates, citrates, and phosphates; and agents for the adjustment of tonicity such as sodium chloride and dextrose. Parenteral preparations can be enclosed in ampoules, disposable syringes, or multiple dose vials made of glass, plastic, or other suitable material. Buffers, preservatives, antioxidants, and the like can be incorporated as required.

[0116] Where administered intravenously, suitable carriers include, but are not limited to, physiological saline, phosphate buffered saline (PBS), and solutions containing thickening and solubilizing agents such as glucose, polyethylene glycol, polypropyleneglycol, and mixtures thereof. Liposomal suspensions including tissue-targeted liposomes may also be suitable as pharmaceutically acceptable carriers. These may be prepared according to methods known in the art.

[0117] The inventive compounds may be prepared with carriers that protect the compound against rapid elimination from the body, such as time-release formulations or coatings. Such carriers include controlled release formulations, such as, but not limited to, implants and microencapsulated delivery systems, and

biodegradable, biocompatible polymers such as collagen, ethylene vinyl acetate, polyanhydrides, polyglycolic acid, polyorthoesters, polylactic acid, and the like.

Methods for preparation of such formulations are known to those skilled in the art.

[0118] Compounds employed in the methods of the invention may be administered enterally or parenterally. When administered orally, compounds employed in the methods of the invention can be administered in usual dosage forms for oral administration as is well known to those skilled in the art. These dosage forms include the usual solid unit dosage forms of tablets and capsules as well as liquid dosage forms such as solutions, suspensions, and elixirs. When the solid dosage forms are used, they can be of the sustained release type so that the compounds employed in the methods of the invention need to be administered only once or twice daily.

[0119] The oral dosage forms can be administered to the patient 1, 2, 3, or 4 times daily. The inventive compounds employed in the methods of the invention can be administered either three or fewer times, or even once or twice daily. Hence, the inventive compounds employed in the methods of the invention be administered in oral dosage form. Whatever oral dosage form is used, they can be designed so as to protect the compounds employed in the methods of the invention from the acidic environment of the stomach. Enteric coated tablets are well known to those skilled in the art. In addition, capsules filled with small spheres each coated to protect from the acidic stomach, are also well known to those skilled in the art.

[0120] The inventive compounds employed in the methods of the invention may also be advantageously delivered in a nanocrystal dispersion formulations.

Preparation of such formulations is described, for example, in U.S. Pat. No. 5,145,684, the entire contents of which is incorporated by reference.

Nanocrystalline dispersions of HIV protease inhibitors and their method of use are described in U.S. Pat. No. 6,045,829, the entire contents of which is incorporated by reference. The nanocrystalline formulations typically afford greater bioavailability of drug compounds.

[0121] The inventive compounds and methods can be used to inhibit neoplastic cell proliferation in an animal. The methods comprise administering to an animal having at least one neoplastic cell present in its body a therapeutically effective amount of at least one of the inventive compounds, in compositions as described above. The animal can be a mammal, including a domesticated mammal. The animal can be a human.

[0122] The term "neoplastic cell" is used to denote a cell that shows aberrant cell growth. The aberrant cell growth of a neoplastic cell includes increased cell growth. A neoplastic cell may be, for example, a hyperplastic cell, a cell that shows a lack of contact inhibition of growth in vitro, a benign tumor cell that is incapable of metastasis *in vivo*, or a cancer cell that is capable of metastases *in vivo* and that may recur after attempted removal. The term "tumorigenesis" is used to denote the induction of cell proliferation that leads to the development of a neoplastic growth.

[0123] The terms "therapeutically effective amount" and "therapeutically effective period of time" are used to denote treatments at dosages and for periods of time effective to reduce neoplastic cell growth. As noted above, such administration can be parenteral, oral, sublingual, transdermal, topical, intranasal, or intrarectal.

When administered systemically, the therapeutic composition can be administered at a sufficient dosage to attain a blood level of the inventive compounds of from about 0.1 μ M to about 100 mM. For localized administration, much lower concentrations than this can be effective, and much higher concentrations may be tolerated. One of skill in the art will appreciate that such therapeutic effect resulting in a lower effective concentration of the histone deacetylase inhibitor may vary considerably depending on the tissue, organ, or the particular animal or patient to be treated according to the invention. It is also understood that while a patient may be started at one dose, that dose may be varied over time as the patient's condition changes.

[0124] The present invention provides compositions and methods for treating a cell proliferative disease or condition in an animal, comprising administering to an animal in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a histone deacetylase inhibitor of the invention. As noted, the animal can be a mammal, including a domesticated mammal. The animal can be a human.

[0125] The term "cell proliferative disease or condition" is meant to refer to any condition characterized by aberrant cell growth, preferably abnormally increased cellular proliferation. Examples of such cell proliferative diseases or conditions include, but are not limited to, cancer, restenosis, and psoriasis. In some embodiments, the invention provides a method for inhibiting neoplastic cell proliferation in an animal comprising administering to an animal having at least one neoplastic cell present in its body a therapeutically effective amount of a histone deacetylase inhibitor of the invention. Cancers treatable according to the invention include, but are not limited to, prostate cancer, lung cancer, acute leukemia, multiple

myeloma, bladder carcinoma, renal carcinoma, breast carcinoma, colorectal carcinoma, neuroblastoma, or melanoma.

[0126] It is contemplated that some compounds of the invention have inhibitory activity against a histone deacetylase from a protozoal source. Thus, the invention also provides a method for treating or preventing a protozoal disease or infection, comprising administering to an animal in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a histone deacetylase inhibitor of the invention. Again, the animal can be a mammal, and can be a human. In some embodiments, the histone deacetylase inhibitor inhibits a protozoal histone deacetylase to a greater extent than it inhibits mammalian histone deacetylases, particularly human histone deacetylases.

[0127] The present invention further provides a method for treating a fungal disease or infection comprising administering to an animal in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a histone deacetylase inhibitor of the invention. The animal can be a mammal, including a human. The histone deacetylase inhibitor used according to this embodiment of the invention can inhibit fungal histone deacetylase to a greater extent than it inhibits mammalian histone deacetylases, particularly human histone deacetylases.

[0128] It should be apparent to one skilled in the art that the exact dosage and frequency of administration will depend on the particular compounds employed in the methods of the invention administered, the particular condition being treated, the severity of the condition being treated, the age, weight, general physical condition of

the particular patient, and other medication the individual may be taking as is well known to administering physicians who are skilled in this art.

EXAMPLES

[0129] Experimental

[0130] Chemical reagents and organic solvents were purchased from Aldrich unless otherwise noted. Nuclear magnetic resonance spectra (1 H NMR) were measured on Bruker 250 MHz. Chemical shifts (δ) are reported in parts per million (ppm) relative to TMS peak. Electrospray ionization (ESI) mass spectrometry analyses were performed with a 3-Tesla Finnigan FTMS-2000 Fourier Transform mass spectrometer. Elemental analyses were within \pm 0.4% of calculated values.

[0131] Flash column chromatography was performed with silica gel (230-400 mesh). The ω-amino acid methyl esters were prepared from the commercially available acids using methanol/TMSCl, and (2-amino-phenyl)carbamic acid benzyl ester was synthesized from o-phenylenediamine and benzyl chloride formate according to standard procedures. Rabbit anti-acetyl-Histone H3 and H4 polyclonal antibodies were purchased from Upstate Biotechnology (Lake Placid, NY), Rabbit anti-p21 antibodies were from Santa Cruz Biotechnology (Santa Cruz, CA). Mouse monoclonal anti-actin was from ICN Biomedicals (Irvine, CA). HRP-conjugated goat anti-rabbit IgG and HRP-conjugated goat anti-mouse IgG were from Jackson ImmunoResearch (West Grove, PA).

[0132] Compounds 1-8 and 11-22 were synthesized according to methods a-e described as follows (Scheme 1A, Figure 6), and compounds 9 and 10 were prepared from 3-[4-(2-propyl-pentanoylamino)-phenyl]-acrylic acid by methods <math>f and

g, respectively (Scheme 1B, Figure 6), which are described separately under the title compounds.

[0133] **Method** a [1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethyl carbodiimide hydrochloride (EDC) coupling]. To a solution of individual short-chain fatty acids in dry THF (5-10 mmol/mL) under N₂ was added various ω-amino acid methyl ester (1 equiv.), followed by EDC (1.3 equiv.). After stirring overnight, THF was removed under reduced pressure, and the residue was dissolved in ethyl acetate (100 mL). The mixture was washed consecutively with water (50 mL) twice and saturated brine (50 mL). The organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated under vacuum. The resulting residue was purified by silica gel flash chromatography.

[0134] **Method b** (ester cleavage). The resulting ester from **Method a** was dissolved in a 2M KOH/MeOH solution. The mixture was stirred at 80°C for 1 h, cooled to 0°C, acidified with 2N HCl to pH 3, concentrated under vacuum, and ethyl acetate (100 mL) and H₂O (50 mL) were added. The organic phase was separated, washed consecutively with water and saturated brine, 50 mL each, dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated under vacuum. The resulting residue was purified by silica gel flash chromatography.

[0135] **Method c** [bis(2-oxo-3-oxazolidinyl)phosphordiamidic chloride (BOP-CI) coupling]. To a solution of the resulting acid from **Method b** in dry THF (5-10 mmol/mL) was added triethylamine (TEA, 1 equiv) under N₂. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 10 min, and BOP-CI (1.1 equiv), Obenzylhydroxylamine hydrochloride (1 equiv), and TEA (3 equiv) were added. After stirring at room temperature overnight, the solution was concentrated under vacuum,

and ethyl acetate (100 mL) was added, followed by 3% NaHCO₃ (50 mL). The organic phase was separated, and washed consecutively with water and saturated brine, 50mL each, dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated under vacuum. The resulting residue was purified by silica gel flash chromatography.

[0136] **Method d** (EDC coupling). To a solution of individual acids resulting from Method b in dry THF (5 - 10 mmol/mL) under N2 was added (2-aminophenyl)carbamic acid benzyl ester (1 equiv), followed by EDC (1.3 equiv). After stirring overnight, the mixture was concentrated under vacuum, and ethyl acetate (100 mL) was added. The organic phase was washed consecutively with water (50 mL) twice, followed by saturated brine (50mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated. The resulting residue was purified by silica gel flash chromatography.

[0137] **Method e** (hydrogenolysis). The N-benzyloxy or N-Cbz derivative, resulting from Method c or d, was dissolved in 1:1 methanol/THF (5-10 mmol/mL), and 10% palladium on charcoal (10% w/w) was added. The mixture was treated with hydrogen under atmospheric pressure for 2 h, and filtered. The solvent was evaporated and the residue was recrystallized with ethyl acetate.

[0138] N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-[(2-propyl-pentanoylamino)-methyl]-benzamide (1). 1 H NMR (DMSO- d_{6}) δ 9.63 (s, 1 H), 8.45 (t, J = 6.1 Hz, 1 H), 7.94 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2 H), 7.36 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2 H), 7.16 (d, J = 7.6Hz, 1 H), 6.98 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1 H), 6.78 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1 H), 6.60 (t, J=7.6 Hz, 1 H), 4.90 (s, 2 H), 4.35 (d, J = 5.9 Hz, 2 H), 2.24 (m, 1 H), 1.6-1.1 (m, 8 H), 0.87 (t, 6 H); HRMS: exact mass of (M+Na)⁺, 390.215195 amu; observed mass of (M+Na)⁺, 390.21793 amu; anal. ($C_{22}H_{29}N_{3}O_{2}$) C, H, N.

[0139] *N*-Hydroxy-4-[(2-propyl-pentanoylamino)-methyl]-benzamide (2).

¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6) δ 11.17 (s, 1 H), 9.00 (s, 1 H), 8.40 (t, J = 5.9 Hz, 1 H), 7.70 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2 H), 7.30 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2 H), 4.31 (d, J = 5.7 Hz, 2 H), 2.24 (m, 1 H), 1.6-1.1 (m, 8 H), 0.85 (t, 6 H); HRMS: exact mass of (M+Na)⁺, 315.167911 amu; observed mass of (M+Na)⁺ 315.16755 amu; anal. (C₁₆H₂₄N₂O₃) C, H, N.

[0140] *N*-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(2-propyl-pentanoylamino)-benzamide (3).

¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6) δ 10.13 (s, 1 H), 9.57 (s, 1 H), 7.95 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2 H), 7.74 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2 H), 7.16 (d, J = 7.8Hz, 1 H), 6.98 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 6.78 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.60 (t, J=7.7 Hz, 1 H), 4.89 (s, 2 H), 2.44 (m, 1 H), 1.7-1.1 (m, 8 H), 0.89 (t, 6 H); HRMS: exact mass of (M+Na)⁺, 376.199545 amu; observed mass of (M+Na)⁺, 376.19762 amu; anal. (C₂₁H₂₇N₃O₂) C, H, N.

[0141] *N*-Hydroxy-4-(2-propyl-pentanoylamino)-benzamide (4). ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6) δ 11.07 (s, 1 H), 10.13 (s, 1 H), 8.94 (s, 1 H), 7.65 (m, 4 H), 2.42 (m, 1 H), 1.7-1.1 (m, 8 H), 0.8 (t, 6 H); HRMS: exact mass of (M+Na)⁺, 301.152261amu; observed mass of (M+Na)⁺, 301.15194amu; anal. (C₁₅H₂₂N₂O₃) C, H, N.

[0142] **2-Propyl-pentanoic acid {4-[(2-amino-phenylcarbamoyl)-methyl]-phenyl}-amide (5).** ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6) δ 9.84 (s, 1 H), 9.33 (s, 1 H), 7.56 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2 H), 7.26 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2 H), 7.14 (d, J = 7.9Hz, 1 H), 6.90 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 6.72 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1 H), 6.53 (t, J=7.7 Hz, 1 H), 4.83 (s, 2 H), 2.41 (m, 1 H), 1.7-1.1 (m, 8 H), 0.89 (t, 6 H); HRMS: exact mass of (M+Na)⁺ 390.215195 amu; observed mass of (M+Na)⁺, 390.21523 amu; anal. ($C_{22}H_{29}N_3O_2$) C, H, N.

[0143] 2-Propyl-pentanoic acid (4-hydroxyph nylcarbamoylmethyl-phenyl)-amide (6). 1 H NMR (DMSO- d_{6}) δ 10.61 (s, 1 H), 9.82 (s, 1 H), 8.81 (s, 1 H),

7.52 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2 H), 7.16 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2 H), 3.22 (s, 2 H), 2.38 (m, 1 H), 1.7-1.1 (m, 8 H), 0.89 (t, 6 H); HRMS: exact mass of (M+Na)⁺, 315.167911 amu; observed mass of (M+Na)⁺, 315.16751 amu; anal. (C₁₆H₂₄N₂O₃) C, H, N.

[0144] **2-Propyl-pentanoic acid {4-[2-(2-amino-phenylcarbamoyl)-ethyl]-phenyl}-amide (7).** ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6) δ 9.80 (s, 1 H), 9.15 (s, 1 H), 7.53 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.17 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.11 (d, J = 7.8Hz, 1 H), 6.89 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1 H), 6.70 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1 H), 6.53 (t, J=7.7 Hz, 1 H), 4.80 (s, 2 H), 2.86 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 2 H), 2.59 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 2 H), 2.38 (m, 1 H), 1.7-1.1 (m, 8 H), 0.87 (t, 6 H); HRMS: exact mass of (M+Na)⁺, 404.230845 amu; observed mass of (M+Na)⁺ 404.23043 amu; anal. ($C_{23}H_{31}N_3O_2$) C, H, N.

[0145] **2-Propyl-pentanoic acid [4-(2-hydroxyphenylcarbamoyl)-ethyl)- phenyl]-amide (8).** ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6) δ 10.38 (s, 1 H), 9.78 (s, 1 H), 8.70 (s, 1 H), 7.50 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2 H), 7.10 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2 H), 2.75 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2 H), 2.40 (m, 1 H), 2.22 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2 H), 1.7-1.1 (m, 8 H), 0.87 (t, 6 H); HRMS: exact mass of (M+Na)⁺, 329.183561 amu; observed mass of (M+Na)⁺ 329.18295 amu; anal. (C₁₇H₂₆N₂O₃) C, H, N.

[0146] **3-[4-(2-propyl-pentanoyl)-phenyl]-acrylic acid**. This compound, a precursor to compounds **9** and **10**, was synthesized from 2-propyl-pentanoic acid (0.78 mL, 4.9mmol) and 3-(4-amino-phenyl)-acrylic acid methyl ester (0.86 g, 4.9mmol) according to **Methods a** and **b** aforementioned. Total yield, 1.05g (70% for 2 steps); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 10% DMSO- d_6) δ 9.49 (s, 1 H), 7.71 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2 H), 7.55 (d, J = 15.9Hz, 1 H), 7.45 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 6.31 (d, J = 15.9Hz, 1 H), 2.40 (m, 1 H), 1.7-1.1 (m, 8 H), 0.87 (t, 6 H).

[0147] *N*-(2-Amino-phenyl)-3-[4-(2-propyl-pentanoylamino)-phenyl]-acrylamide (9). To a solution of 3-[4-(2-propyl-pentanoyl)-phenyl]-acrylic acid (200 mg, 0.7 mmol) in dry THF was added benzene-1,2-diamine (450 mg, 4.2 mmol) under N₂, followed by EDC (180 mg, 0.9 mmol). After stirring overnight, the mixture was concentrated under vacuum, ethyl acetate (50 mL) was added, and washed consecutively with water (30 mL) twice and saturated brine (30mL). The organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated under vacuum. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate-hexane, 1 : 1), giving compound 9 (200 mg, 76% yield) as white solid. ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6) δ 10.07 (s, 1 H), 9.35 (s, 1 H), 7.71 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2 H), 7.56 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2 H), 7.51 (d, J = 15.7Hz, 1 H), 7.34 (d, J = 6.6Hz, 1 H), 6.92 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 1 H), 6.80 (d, J = 15.5Hz, 1 H), 6.75 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1 H), 6.58 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1 H), 4.96 (s, 2 H), 2.44 (m, 1 H), 1.7-1.1 (m, 8 H), 0.87 (t, 6 H); HRMS: exact mass of (M+Na)⁺, 402.215195 amu; observed mass of (M+Na)⁺, 402.21448 amu; anal. (C₂₃H₂₉N₃O₂) C, H, N.

[0148] *N*-Hydroxy-3-[4-(2-propyl-pentanoylamino)-phenyl]-acrylamide (10). To a solution of 3-[4-(2-propyl-pentanoylamino)-phenyl]-acrylic acid (100 mg, 0.35 mmol) in dry DMF (3 mL) was added EDC (79 mg, 0.53 mmol) and hydroxybenzotriazole hydrate (HOBT) (62 mg, 0.46 mmol) under nitrogen. The mixture was stirred for 1 h, hydroxylamine hydrochloride (27.4 mg, 0.39 mmol) and TEA (54 μL) were added, stirred for additional 12 h, concentrated under vacuum, and ethyl acetate (40 mL) and saturated NaHCO₃ solution (15 mL) were added. The organic phase was separated, and washed consecutively with water and saturated brine. 20mL each. The organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated

under vacuum. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography [ethyl acetate-MeOH (9 : 1)], yielding compound **10** (45 mg, 40% yield) as white solid. ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6) δ 10.69 (s, 1 H), 10.07 (s, 1 H), 9.00 (s, 1 H), 7.67 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2 H), 7.53 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.39 (d, J = 15.6Hz, 1 H), 6.39 (d, J = 15.3Hz, 1 H), 2.40 (m, 1 H), 1.7-1.1 (m, 8 H), 0.87 (t, 6 H); HRMS: exact mass of (M+Na)⁺, 327.167911 amu; observed mass of (M+Na)⁺, 327.16809 amu; anal. (C₁₇H₂₄N₂O₃) C, H, N.

[0149] *N*-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(butyrylamino-methyl)-benzamide (11). ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6) δ 9.63 (s, 1 H), 8.41 (t, J = 5.7 Hz, 1 H), 7.94 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2 H), 7.36 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 7.17 (d, J = 7.6Hz, 1 H), 6.98 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 6.78 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1 H), 6.60 (t, J=7.7 Hz, 1 H), 4.90 (s, 2 H), 4.35 (d, J = 5.8 Hz, 2 H), 2.15 (t, J=7.3 Hz, 2 H), 1.60 (m, 2 H), 0.88 (t, J=7.3 Hz, 3 H); HRMS: exact mass of (M+Na)⁺, 334.152595 amu; observed mass of (M+Na)⁺, 334.15221 amu; anal. (C₁₈H₂₁N₃O₂) C, H, N.

[0150] *N*-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(phenylacetylamino-methyl)-benzamide (12). ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6) δ 9.60 (s, 1 H), 8.66 (t, J = 6.1 Hz, 1 H), 7.92 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2 H), 7 .31 (m, 7 H), 7.16 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.98 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1 H), 6.78 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1 H), 6.60 (t, J=7.4 Hz, 1 H), 4.90 (s, 2 H), 4.35 (d, J = 5.7 Hz, 2 H), 3.51 (s, 2 H); HRMS: exact mass of (M+Na)⁺, 382.152595 amu; observed mass of (M+Na)⁺, 382.15228 amu; anal. ($C_{22}H_{21}N_3O_2$) C, H, N.

[0151] *N*-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-[(4-phenylbutyrylamino)-methyl]-benzamide (13). ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6) δ 9.63 (s, 1 H), 8.43 (t, J = 6.1 Hz, 1 H), 7.94 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2 H), 7.34 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2 H), 7.21 (m, 6 H), 6.98 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1 H), 6.78 (d, J

= 8.11Hz, 2 H), 6.61 (t, J=6.5 Hz, 1 H), 4.90 (s, 2 H), 4.34 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 2 H), 2.59 (t, J=7.6 Hz, 2 H), 2.20 (t, J=7.7 Hz, 2 H), 1.84 (m, 2 H); HRMS: exact mass of (M+Na)⁺, 410.183895 amu; observed mass of (M+Na)⁺, 410.18232 amu; anal. (C₂₄H₂₅N₃O₂) C, H, N.

[0152] **4-(Butyrylamino-methyl)-** *N*-hydroxy-benzamide (14). ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6) δ 11.15 (s, 1 H), 9.01 (s, 1 H), 8.36 (t, J = 5.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.7 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2 H), 7.32 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 4.30 (d, J = 5.7 Hz, 2 H), 2.15 (t, J=7.3 Hz, 2 H), 1.60 (m, 2 H), 0.88 (t, J=7.3 Hz, 3 H); HRMS: exact mass of (M+Na)⁺, 259.10569 amu; observed mass of (M+Na)⁺, 259.10569 amu; anal. ($C_{12}H_{16}N_2O_3$) C, H, N.

[0153] *N*-Hydroxy-4-(phenylacetylamino-methyl)-benzamide (15). ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6) δ 11.2 (s, 1 H), 8.9 (s, 1 H), 8.6 (t, J = 5.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.9 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2 H), 7.28 (m, 7 H), 4.04 (d, J = 5.7 Hz, 2 H), 3.5 (s, 2 H); HRMS: exact mass of (M+Na)⁺, 307.105311 amu; observed mass of (M+Na)⁺, 307.10512 amu; anal. (C₁₆H₁₆N₂O₃) C, H, N.

[0154] *N*-Hydroxy-4-[(4-phenylbutyrylamino)-methyl]-benzamide (16). ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6) δ 11.2 (s, 1 H), 9.0 (s, 1 H), 8.4 (t, J = 5.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.7 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 7.21 (m, 7 H), 4.3 (d, J = 5.8 Hz, 2 H), 2.58 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2 H), 2.18 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2 H), 1.83 (m, 2 H); HRMS: exact mass of (M+Na)⁺, 335.136611amu; observed mass of (M+Na)⁺, 335.13716amu; anal. (C₁₈H₂₀N₂O₃) C, H, N.

[0155] **4-Butyrylamino-***N***-hydroxy-benzamide (17).** ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6) δ 11.08 (s, 1 H), 10.09(s, 1 H), 8.94 (s, 1 H), 7.67 (m, 4 H), 2.31 (t, J=7.3 Hz, 2 H), 1.61 (m, 2 H), 0.92 (t, J=7.4 Hz, 3 H); HRMS: exact mass of (M+Na)⁺

245.089661amu, Observed Mass of (M+Na)⁺ 245.08971amu, Difference <1.0ppm.

Anal. (C₁₁H₁₄N₂O₃) C, H, N.

[0156] *N*-Hydroxy-4-phenylacetylamino-benzamide (18). ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6) δ 11.1 (s, 1 H), 10.40 (s, 1 H), 8.94 (s, 1 H), 7.67 (m, 4 H), 7.33 (m, 5 H), 3.67 (s, 2 H); HRMS: exact mass of (M+Na)⁺, 293.089661amu; observed mass of (M+Na)⁺, 293.08957amu; anal. (C₁₅H₁₄N₂O₃) C, H, N.

[0157] *N*-Hydroxy-4-(4-phenylbutyrylamino)-benzamide (19). ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6) δ 11.02 (s, 1 H), 10.1 (s, 1 H), 8.94 (s, 1 H), 7.67 (m, 4 H), 7.27 (m, 5 H), 2.63 (t, J=7.5 Hz, 2 H), 2.35 (t, J=7.4 Hz, 2 H), 1.87 (m, 2 H); HRMS: exact mass of (M+Na)⁺, 321.120961amu; observed mass of (M+Na)⁺, 321.11940amu; anal. (C₁₇H₁₈N₂O₃) C, H, N.

[0158] *N*-[4-(2-Hydroxycarbamoyl-ethyl)-phenyl]-butyramide (20). ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6) δ 10.4 (s, 1 H), 9.8 (s, 1 H), 8.70 (s, 1 H), 7.50 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.10 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 2.75 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2 H), 2.24 (m, 4 H), 1.61 (m, 2 H), 0.92 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3 H); HRMS: exact mass of (M+Na)⁺, 273.120961 amu; observed mass of (M+Na)⁺, 273.12080 amu; anal. (C₁₃H₁₈N₂O₃) C, H, N.

[0159] *N*-Hydroxy-3-(4-phenylacetylamino-phenyl)-propionamide (21). ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6) δ 10.36 (s, 1 H), 10.14 (s, 1 H), 8.70 (s, 1 H), 7.50 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2 H), 7.2-7.4 (m, 5 H), 7.10 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2 H), 3.62 (s, 2 H), 2.75 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2 H), 2.22 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2 H); HRMS: exact mass of (M+Na)⁺ 321.120961 amu; observed mass of (M+Na)⁺, 321.12040 amu; anal. (C₁₇H₁₈N₂O₃) C, H, N.

[0160] *N*-[4-(2-Hydroxycarbamoyl-ethyl)-ph nyl]-4-ph nyl-butyramide (22). ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6) δ 10.36 (s, 1 H), 9.80 (s, 1 H), 8.70 (s, 1 H), 7.52 (d, J =

8.5 Hz, 2 H), 7.2-7.4 (m, 5 H), 7.10 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 2.75 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2 H), 2.62 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2 H), 2.15-2.4 (m, 4 H), 1.8-2.0 (m, 2 H); HRMS: exact mass of (M+Na)⁺, 349.152261 amu; observed mass of (M+Na)⁺, 349.15223 amu; anal. (C₁₉H₂₂N₂O₃) C, H, N.

[0161] A list of all compounds, including additional compounds 23 - 67, is shown in Figure 6.

[0162] *In vitro* HDAC assay. HDAC activity was analyzed by using a histone deacetylase assay kit (Upstate Biotechnology, Lake Placid, NY) by following the manufacturer's instruction with slight modifications. This assay was based on the ability of DU-145 nuclear extract, which is rich in histone deacetylase activity, to mediate the deacetylation of biotinylated [³H]-acetyl histone H4 peptide that was bound to streptavidin agarose beads. The release of [³H]-acetate into the supernatant was measured to calculate the HDAC activity. Sodium butyrate (0.25 - 1 mM) was used as a positive control.

[0163] **Cell viability assay**. The effect of HTPB on cell viability was assessed by the MTT {[3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyl-2H-tetrazolium bromide]} assay in 96-well, flat-bottomed plates, in which 4,000 DU-145 cells/well were seeded. Cells were exposed to HTPB at the indicated concentrations in 10% FBS-supplemented RPMI-1640 medium at 37 °C in 5% CO₂ for the indicated time. The medium was removed and replaced by 150 μ l of 0.5 mg/ml of MTT in RPMI-1640 medium, and cells were incubated in the CO₂ incubator at 37 °C for 2 hours. Supernatants were removed from the wells, and the reduced MTT dye was

solubilized with 200 μ l/well DMSO. Absorbance was determined on a plate reader at 570 nm. Each treatment was repeated in six wells.

[0164] Apoptosis Detection by An Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA). Induction of apoptosis was assessed by using a Cell Death ELISA (Roche Diagnostics, Mannheim, Germany) by following the manufacturer's instruction. This test is based on the quantitative determination of cytoplasmic histone-associated DNA fragments in the form of mononucleosomes and oligonucleosomes after induced apoptotic death. In brief, 1 x 10⁶ DU-145 cells were cultured in a T-75 flask 24 h prior to the experiment. Cells were treated with HTPB at the indicated concentrations in 10% FBS-supplemented RPMI 1640 medium. Both floating and adherent cells were collected, cell lysates equivalent to 2 x 10³ cells were used in the ELISA.

[0165] **Western blot analysis**. DU-145 cells (1 x 10⁶) treated with HTPB at the indicated concentrations in 10% FBS-supplemented RPMI 1640 medium for 24 h were collected, and sonicated. Protein concentrations of the lysates were determined by using a Bradford protein assay kit (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA); equivalent amounts of proteins from each lysate were resolved in 10% SDS-polyacrylamide gel, and then transferred onto Immobilon-nitrocellulose membranes (Millipore, Bellerica, MA) in a semi-dry transfer cell. The transblotted membrane was washed twice with Tris-buffered saline (TBS) containing 0.1% Tween 20 (TBST). After blocking with TBST containing 5% nonfat milk for 40 min, the membrane was incubated with the primary antibody (1 : 1000 dilution) in TBST-1% nonfat milk at 4 °C overnight. After treatment with the primary antibody, the membrane was washed

three times with TBST for a total of 15 min, followed by goat anti-rabbit or anti-mouse IgG-horseradish peroxidase conjugates (diluted 1: 3000) for 1 h at room temperature and wash three times with TBST for a total of 1 h. The immunoblots were visualized by enhanced chemiluminescence.

[0166] **Results**

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[0167] For the first series of compounds, we employed valproic acid as lead to synthesize Zn²⁺-tethered conjugates (Fig. 1) according to the procedures depicted in Scheme 1 (A, compounds 1 – 8; B, compounds 9 and 10). For compounds 1 – 8, valproic acid was coupled with four different ω-amino acid methyl ester spacers via EDC activation. The resulting esters were cleaved to acids via alkaline hydrolysis. Under typical peptide coupling conditions (BOPCI or EDC), the resulting acids were treated with Bn-protected hydroxylamine and Cbz-protected *o*-phenylenediamine to form, after hydrogenolysis, the respective anilides and hydroxamic acids (Scheme 1A). Compound 9 and 10 were synthesized by direct coupling of 3-[4-(2-propyl-pentanoyl)-phenyl]-acrylic acid with *o*- phenylenediamine and hydroxylamine, respectively, under typical EDC coupling condition (Scheme 1B).

[0168] Zn^{2+} -chelating motif-tethered valproate derivatives. The divergent conjugation of valproic acid with five different aromatic linkers and subsequently two Zn^{2+} -binding motifs yielded compounds 1-10. These tethered conjugates displayed varying degree of HDAC inhibitory potency (Fig. 2), with IC_{50} values ranging from 5 μ M (compound 8) to 80 μ M (compound 5). This potency was an eighty- to five-fold improvement over that of the parent molecule (IC_{50} , 0.4 mM). Removal of the valproyl moiety or the Zn^{2+} -chelating motif from any of these

conjugates completely abolished the HDAC inhibitory activity (data not shown), indicating the importance of the acyl function and the Zn²⁺-chelating motif in the protein-ligand interactions.

[0169] Among the ten tethered conjugates examined, compounds 1, 2, 4, and 8 represented the optimal derivatives (IC₅₀, 5 - 8 μ M), followed by 3, 9, and 10 (IC₅₀, 10 – 20 μ M). Relatively, the hydroxamates (compounds 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10) were generally more potent than their phenylenediamine counterparts (compounds 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9). Moreover, the aromatic linker exhibited a subtle effect on HDAC inhibitory activity. Among the five aromatic ω -amino acids examined, (4-aminophenyl)acetate gave rise to conjugates with the least HDAC inhibitory potency (5 and 6), while 4-(aminomethyl)benzoate appeared to be optimal. For further structural modifications, compounds 1, 2, 4, and 8 were used as leads since all of them exhibited IC₅₀ < 10 μ M.

[0170] **Structural modification**. The finding that removal of the valproyl group completely abrogated the inhibitory activity of the conjugate underscored the importance of the acyl moiety in interacting with the active-site pocket. We thus substituted the valproyl group in compounds **1**, **2**, **4**, and **8** with a butyryl, phenylacetyl, or phenylbutyryl to enhance the stereoelectronic effect on HDAC inhibition (Fig. 3). All these derivatives showed an improved potency in HDAC inhibition as compared to the valproyl counterparts. Among various acyl functions examined, the relative potency was in the order of phenylbutyryl > phenylacetyl > butyryl > valproyl when conjugated to the same spacer and Zn²⁺-chelating motif.

[0171] Of these twelve derivatives, compound **19** was especially noteworthy. This hydroxamate-tethered phenylbutyrate (HTPB), *i.e.*, compound **19**, exhibited IC₅₀ of 44 nM, a four-order-of-magnitude improvement over phenylbutyrate. This compound was used to examine its effect on HDAC activity in DU-145 prostate cancer cells.

[0172] Effect of HTPB on histone acetylation and p21^{WAF/CIP1} expression in DU-145 prostate cancer cells. Histone hyperacetylation and increased expression of the cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitor p21^{WAF/CIP1} represent two hallmark features in association with intracellular HDAC inhibition (Marks *et al.*, Nat Rev Cancer 1: 194-202 (2001)). Consequently, we examined the effect of HTPB vis-à-vis TSA and phenylbutyrate on HDAC activity in DU-145 prostate cancer cells by characterizing the status of histone acetylation and p21^{WAF/CIP1} expression.

[0173] DU-145 cells were exposed to HTPB at 0.5, 1, 2.5 μ M, TSA at 0.25 and 0.5 μ M, or phenylbutyrate at 1, 2.5, and 5 mM in 10% FBS-supplemented RPMI 1640 medium for 24 h. Western blot analysis of the cell lysates indicates that treatment of these agents gave rise to elevated levels of acetylated histones H3 and H4, and p21^{WAF/CIP1} (Fig. 4). The effect of 1 μ M HTPB on these biomarkers approximated that of 0.25 μ M TSA, or 2.5 mM phenylbutyrate. DU-145 cells displayed small but significant amounts of intrinsic p21^{WAF/CIP1}, and the level increased substantially after exposure to HTPB as low as 0.5 μ M. Together, these data confirmed that HTPB targeted HDAC activity in DU-145 cells.

[0174] Effect of HTPB on DU-145 cell viability. Effect of HTPB on cancer cell viability was assessed in DU-145 cells in 10% FBS-supplemented RPMI-1640

medium. These cells displayed high degree of sensitivity to HTPB, with IC $_{50}$ in growth inhibition of approximately between 0.5 and 1 μ M (Fig. 5A). As evidenced by DNA fragmentation, HTPB sensitized DU-145 cells to apoptosis in a dosedependent manner (Fig. 5B). As shown, extensive apoptosis occurred at 24 h when the drug concentration exceeded 1 μ M, indicating that this cytotoxic effect was, at least in part, attributable to the induction of apoptosis by HDAC inhibition. Other cell lines examined including AN3CA endometrial cancer cells, and SW-48 and HCT-15 colorectal cancer cells. These cancer cells were also susceptible to the cytotoxic effect of HTPB with similar potency (data not shown).

[0175] Discussion

[0176] Herein, we present the development of a novel class of HDAC inhibitors, in which short-chain fatty acids were tethered to a Zn²⁺-chelating moiety through hydrophobic linkage. Our strategy in the development of these compounds was built on a working model provided by the unique mode of HDAC inhibition by TSA and SAHA (Finnin *et al.*, Nature 401: 188-193 (1999)). Our novel tethering strategy led to the discovery of HTPB (or compound **19**), which displays HDAC inhibitory and antiproliferative activities at sub-μM concentrations that are in line with that reported for SAHA (Richon *et al.*, Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A 95: 3003-3007 (1998)).

[0177] We obtained two lines of evidence that HTPB targeted HDAC activity in several cancer cell lines. Specifically, treatment of DU-145 prostate cancer cells with HTPB at as low as 0.5 μ M caused the hyperacetylation of histones H-3 and H-4 in a dose-dependent manner. Likewise, p21^{WAF/CIP1} expression was substantially

upregulated in response to HTPB. In contrast, the parent molecule phenylbutyrate required at least 2.5 mM to achieve the same intracellular effects on histone acetylation and p21^{WAF/CIP1} expression.

[0178] HTPB is structurally distinct from existing HDAC inhibitors, in many of which the cap groups consist of polar, planar structures. For example, the cap groups of TSA, SAHA, and MS-275 contain dimethylaminophenyl, phenylamino, and pyridin-3-yl-methoxycarbonyl groups, respectively. Thus, we have further concluded that the active-site pocket exhibits a high degree of flexibility in accommodating cap groups with different stereoelectronic properties. Our data indicate that phenylbutyryl and phenylacetyl were more effective than aliphatic acyl moieties in facilitating the binding of the conjugates to the active-site pocket. This discrepancy might, in part, be due to differences in electron density and/or steric hindrance imposed by the branched side chain. With regard to the aromatic linker, 4-aminobenzoate appeared to be optimal to tether phenylbutyryl with hydroxamate, of which the length was sufficient to make contacts at both ends of the pocket.

[0179] Other embodiments of the invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art from consideration of the specification and practice of the invention disclosed herein. It is intended that the specification and examples be considered as exemplary only, with a true scope and spirit of the invention being indicated by the following claims.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A histone deacetylase inhibitor having the formula:

wherein:

X is chosen from H and CH₃;

Y is $(CH_2)_n$ wherein n is 0-2;

Z is chosen from $(CH_2)_m$ wherein m is 0-3 and $(CH)_2$;

A is a hydrocarbyl group;

B is o-aminophenyl or hydroxyl group; and

Q is a halogen, hydrogen, or methyl.

- 2. The inhibitor according to claim 1, wherein A comprises an aliphatic group.
- 3. The inhibitor according to claim 2, wherein the aliphatic group is branched.
- 4. The inhibitor according to claim 1, wherein A comprises an aromatic group.
- 5. The inhibitor according to claim 4, wherein A comprises a substituted aromatic group.
 - 6. The inhibitor according to claim 1, wherein B is o-aminophenyl.
 - 7. The inhibitor according to claim 1, wherein B is hydroxyl.
- 8. The inhibitor according to claim 1, wherein Y is (CH₂)_n wherein n is 0, A comprises an aromatic group, B is hydroxy, and Q is hydrogen.

- 9. The inhibitor according to claim 1, wherein the inhibitor is chosen from N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-[(2-propyl-pentanoylamino)-methy1]-benzamide; N-Hydroxy-4-[(2-propyl-pentanoylamino)-methy1]-benzamide; N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(2-propyl-pentanoylamino)-benzamide; N-Hydroxy-4-(2-propyl-pentanoylamino)-benzamide; 2-Propyl-pentanoic acid {4-[2-amino-phenylcarbamoyl)-methyl]-phenyl}-amide; 2-Propyl-pentanoic acid (4-hydroxycarbamoyl-methyl-phenyl)-amide; 2-Propyl-pentanoic acid {4-[2-amino-phenylcarbamoyl)-ethyl]-phenyl}-amide; 2-Propyl-pentanoic acid {4-(2-hydroxycarbamoyl-ethyl)-phenyl]-amide; 2-Propyl-pentanoic acid {4-2-(2-amino-phenylcarbamoyl)-vinyl]-phenyl}-amide; and 2-Propyl-pentanoic acid {4-(2-hydroxycarbamoyl-vinyl)-phenyl]-amide.
- 10. The inhibitor according to claim 1, wherein the inhibitor is chosen from N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(butyrylamino-methyl)-benzamide; N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(phenylacetylamino-methyl)-benzamide; N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-[(4-phenyl-butyrylamino-methyl]-benzamide; 4-(Butyrylamino-methyl)-N-hydroxy-benzamide; N-hydroxy-4-(phenylacetylamino-methyl)-benzamide; N-hydroxy-4-[(4-phenyl-butyrylamino)-methyl]-benzamide; 4-Butyrylamino-N-hydroxy-benzamide; N-hydroxy-4-phenylacetylamino-benzamide; N-hydroxy-4-(4-phenylbutyrylamino)-benzamide; and N-[4-(2-Hydroxycarbamoyl-ethyl)-phenyl]-butyramide.
- 11. The inhibitor according to claim 1, wherein the inhibitor is chosen from N-hydroxy-3-(4-phenylacetylamino-phenyl)-propionamide; N-[4-(2-Hydroxycarbamoylethyl)-phenyl]-4-phenyl-butyramide; N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-[(2-phenyl-butyrylamino-methyl]-benzamide; N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-[(3-phenyl-butyrylamino-methyl]-benzamide; N-hydroxy-4-(2-phenylbutyrylamino)-benzamide; N-hydroxy-4-(3-phenylbutyrylamino)-benzamide; N-hydroxy-4-(3-phenylbutyrylamino)-benzamide; N-hydroxy-4-(3-phenylbutyrylamino)-benzamide; N-hydroxy-4-(3-phenylbutyrylamino)-benzamide; N-hydroxy-4-(3-phenylbutyrylamino)-benzamide; N-hydroxy-4-(3-phenylbutyrylamino)-benzamide; N-hydroxy-4-(3-phenylbutyrylamino)-benzamide; N-hydroxy-4-(3-phenylbutyrylamino)-benzamide; N-hydroxy-4-(3-phenylbutyrylamino-methyl)-4-[(3-phenylbutyrylamino-methyl]-

phenylbutyrylamino)-benzamide; N-[4-(2-Hydroxycarbamoyl-ethyl)-phenyl]-2-phenyl-butyramide; N-[4-(2-Hydroxycarbamoyl-ethyl)-phenyl]-3-phenyl-butyramide; N-hydroxy-4-[(2-phenyl-butyrylamino)-methyl]-benzamide; and N-hydroxy-4-[(3-phenyl-butyrylamino)-methyl]-benzamide.

- 12. The inhibitor according to claim 1, wherein the inhibitor is chosen from 4-Benzoylamino-N-hydroxy-benzamide; 4-(4-methyl)-Benzoylamino-N-hydroxy-benzamide; 4-(4-chloro)-Benzoylamino-N-hydroxy-benzamide; 4-(4-bromo)-Benzoylamino-N-hydroxy-benzamide; 4-(4-tert-butyl)-Benzoylamino-N-hydroxy-benzamide; 4-(4-methoxyl)-Benzoylamino-N-hydroxy-benzamide; 4-(4-methoxyl)-Benzoylamino-N-hydroxy-benzamide; 4-(4-trifluoromethyl)-Benzoylamino-N-hydroxy-benzamide; 4-(4-nitro)-Benzoylamino-N-hydroxy-benzamide; and Pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (4-hydroxycarbamoyl-phenyl)-amide.
- 13. The inhibitor according to claim 1, wherein the inhibitor is chosen from N-hydroxy-4-(2-methyl-2-phenyl-propionylamino)-benzamide; N-hydroxy-4-(3-methyl-2-phenyl-butyrylamino)-benzamide; N-hydroxy-4-(3-phenyl-propionylamino)-benzamide; 4-(2,2-Dimethyl-4-phenyl-butyrylamino)-N-hydroxy-benzamide; N-hydroxy-4-[methyl-(4-phenyl-butyryl)-amino]-benzamide; N-hydroxy-4-(2-phenyl-propionylamino)-benzamide; N-hydroxy-4-(2-methoxy-2-phenyl-acetylamino)-benzamide; 4-Diphenylacetylamino-N-hydroxy-benzamide; N-hydroxy-4-[2-(4-isobutyl-phenyl)-propionylamino]-benzamide; and N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-phenylacetylamino-benzamide.
- 14. The inhibitor according to claim 1, wherein the inhibitor is chosen from N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(5-phenyl-pentanoylamino)-benzamide; N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-

(2-phenyl-butyrylamino)-benzamide; N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(2,2-dimethyl-4-phenyl-butyrylamino)-benzamide; N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(3-phenyl-propionylamino)-benzamide; N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(4-phenyl-butyrylamino)-benzamide; N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(3-methyl-2-phenyl-butyrylamino)-benzamide; N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(2-methyl-2-phenyl-butyrylamino)-benzamide; N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(2-methyl-2-phenyl-propionylamino)-benzamide; N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-[2-(4-isobutyl-phenyl)-propionylamino]-benzamide; and N-hydroxy-4-[2-(S)-phenylbutyrylamino]-benzamide.

- 15. The inhibitor according to claim 1, wherein the inhibitor is chosen from N-hydroxy-4-[2-(R)-phenylbutyrylamino]-benzamide; N-[4-(2-Hydroxycarbamoyl-ethyl)-phenyl]-2-(S)-phenyl-butyramide; N-[4-(2-Hydroxycarbamoyl-ethyl)-phenyl]-2-(R)-phenyl-butyramide; N-hydroxy-4-(3-(S)-phenylbutyrylamino)-benzamide; N-hydroxy-4-(3-(R)-phenylbutyrylamino)-benzamide; N-hydroxy-4-[3-(S)-phenylbutyrylamino]-benzamide.
 - 16. The inhibitor according to claim 1, wherein the inhibitor is an ester or salt.
- 17. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the inhibitor according to claim1, and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.
- 18. A method of inhibiting neoplastic cell proliferation in an animal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of at least one inhibitor according to claim 1.
 - 19. The method according to claim 18, wherein the animal is a human.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Zn²⁺-chelating motif-tethered fatty acids as histone deacetylase (HDAC) inhibitors. One hydroxamate-tethered phenylbutyrate compound, *N*-hydroxy-4-(4-phenylbutyrylamino)-benzamide (HTPB), displayed nM potency in inhibiting HDAC activity. Exposure of several cancer cell lines to HTPB at sub-μM concentrations showed reduced cell proliferation accompanied by histone hyperacetylation and elevated p21^{WAF/CIP1} expression, hallmark features associated with intracellular HDAC inhibition.

Valproic acid	Linker	Zn ² -chelating group	Derivatives
·	H ₂ N → OH	1 0 H NH2 H	
	O H ₂ N OH		O NH2 NH2 NH2 NH4
О	$\begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\$	NH SH NH OH OH OH	
		NH NH ₂ NH NH NH NH ₂ NH NH NH NH ₂ NH N	
	H ₂ N OH		9 NH 9 NH 0H NH 10

FIGURE 1

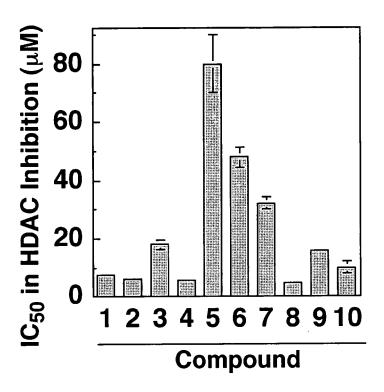


FIGURE 2

	R	Compounds	IC ₅₀ (μM)
0	CH ₃ CH ₂ CH ₂ -	11	6.0 <u>+</u> 0.5
R N H NH2	CH ₂ -	12	5.2 <u>+</u> 0.4
	CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂ -	13	4.3 <u>+</u> 0.3
R N H	CH ₃ CH ₂ CH ₂ -	14	3.6 <u>+</u> 0.5
	CH₂-	15	2.5 <u>+</u> 0.3
О ОН	CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂ -	16	1.2 <u>+</u> 0.1
O	CH ₃ CH ₂ CH ₂ -	17	1.5 <u>+</u> 0.2
O NOH	CH ₂ -	18	0.11 <u>+</u> 0.01
R N	CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂ -	19 (HTPB)	0.044 <u>+</u> 0.006
Q	CH ₃ CH ₂ CH ₂ -	20	1.6 <u>+</u> 0.2
N.OH	CH ₂ -	21	0.67 <u>+</u> 0.08
R N H	CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂ -	22	0.53 <u>+</u> 0.06

FIGURE 3

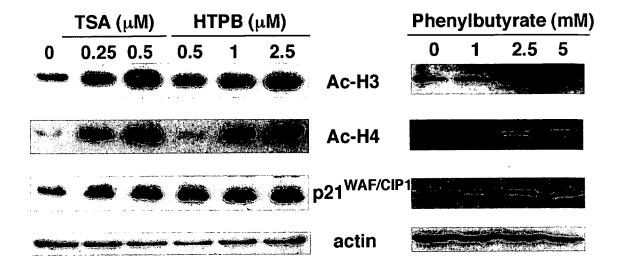
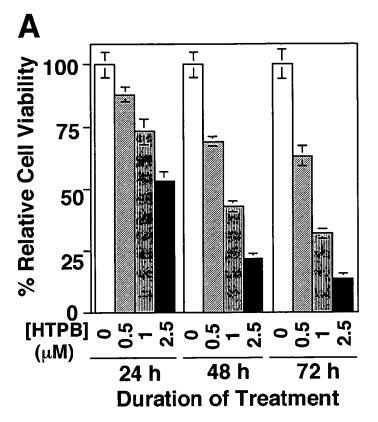


FIGURE 4

BEST AVAILABLE COPY



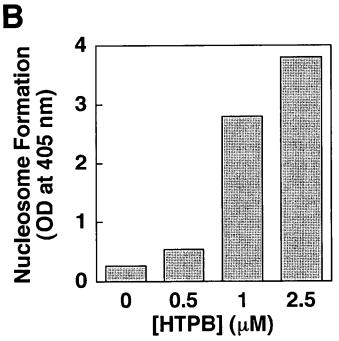


FIGURE 5

Scheme 1^a

^aReagents: (a) EDC, THF; (b) KOH/MeOH, 80 o C; (c) NH₂OBn·HCl, BOPCl, Et₃N; (d) (2-aminopheny)carbamic acid benzyl ester, EDC, THF; (e) 10% Pd/C, H₂, MeOH/THF; (f) NH₂OH·HCl, EDC, HOBT, Et₃N; (g) *o*-phenylene diamine, EDC, THF.

FIGURE 6

Figure 7 (Frame 1)

Figure 7 (Frame 2)

Figure 7 (Frame 3)

Figure 7 (Frame 4)

N-hydroxy-4-(3-phenylbutyrylamino)-benzamide

N-[4-(2-Hydroxycarbamoyl-ethyl)-phenyl]-3-phenyl-butyramide

phenyl-butyramide

N-[4-(2-Hydroxycarbamoyl-ethyl)-phenyl]-2-

N-hydroxy-4-[(2-phenyl-butyrylamino)-methyl]-benzamide

N-hydroxy-4-[(3-phenyl-butyrylamino)-methyl]-benzamide

4-Benzoylamino-N- hydroxy-benzamide

4-(4-methyl)-Benzoylamino-N-hydroxy-benzamide

4-(4-chloro)-Benzoylamino-N-hydroxy-benzamide

4-(4-bromo)-Benzoylamino-*N*-hydroxy-benzamide

4-(4-tert-butyl)-Benzoylamino-N-hydroxy-benzamide

4-(4-phenyl)-Benzoylamino-N-hydroxy-benzamide

4-(4-methoxyl)-Benzoylamino-*N*-hydroxy-benzamide

4-(4-trifluoromethyl)-Benzoylamino-N-hydroxy-benzamide

<u>-1</u> ယ

4-(4-nitro)-Benzoylamino-*N*-hydroxy-benzamide

Pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (4-hydroxycarbamoyl-phenyl)-amide

Figure 7 (Frame 7)

52

51

50

0=

ΙZ

NH₂

1.2

ŻΙ

acetylamino)-benzamide

benzamide

4-Diphenylacetylamino-N-hydroxy-

N-hydroxy-4-(2-methoxy-2-phenyl-

propionylamino]-benzamide

N-hydroxy-4-[2-(4-isobutyl-phenyl)-

49

13

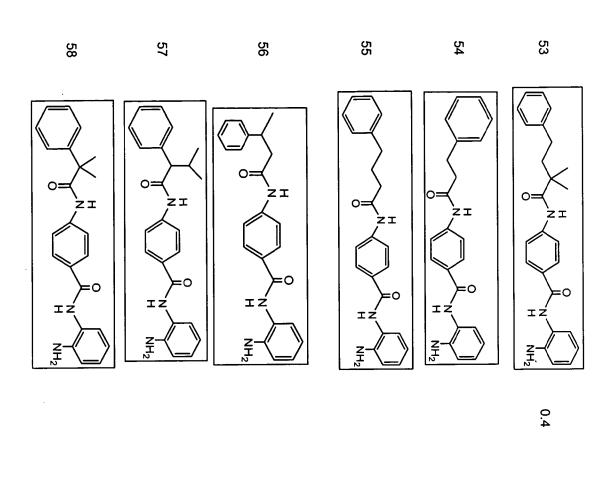
ΙŹ

N-(2-Amino-phenyl)-4-phenylacetylamino-benzamide

N- (2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(5-phenylpentanoylamino)-benzamide

<u>.</u>3

N- (2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(2-phenyl-butyrylamino)-benzamide



N- (2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(2,2-dimethyl-4-phenyl-butyrylamino)-benzamide
 N- (2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(3-phenyl-propionylamino)-benzamide
 N- (2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(4-phenyl-

0.8

N- (2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(3-phenyl-

butyrylamino)-benzamide

butyrylamino)-benzamide

N- (2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(3-methyl-2-phenyl-butyrylamino)-benzamide

N- (2-Amino-phenyl)-4-(2-methyl-2-phenyl-propionylamino)-benzamide

Figure 7 (Frame 10)

ΙŹ

66

67

N-hydroxy-4-(3-(R)-phenylbutyrylamino)-benzamide

65

ΙŹ

N-hydroxy-4-[3-(S)-phenylbutyrylamino]-benzamide

N-hydroxy-4-[3-(R)-phenylbutyrylamino]-benzamide

Zinc-chelating motifs:

Structure	Name
°CF₃	Trifluoromethyl ketone
Solve De La Companya	α-keto Amide
N S N S N S N S N S N S N S N S N S N S	α-keto Thiazole
STATE N	2-keto 1-Methyl-1 <i>H</i> -imidazole
SZZZ HN N	α-keto 1 <i>H</i> -Tetrazole
N HN N	α-keto 1 <i>H</i> -Imidazole
N N N	5-keto 1-Methyl-1 <i>H</i> -imidazole
N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N	α-keto Oxazole
No.	α-keto 4,5-Dihydro-oxazole

Figure 8 (Frame 1)

N O N	α-keto Bezooxazole
Survey N N	α -keto Oxazolo[4,5- b]pyridine
N. C. N.	α-keto Pyridine